

## Best of Transylvania - code Hu5.1RoSi

**Transylvania** has always been the first region in Romania to adopt western progress. Still it is in Transylvania that **traditions** are best preserved, "*the land beyond the woods*" is a place of **medieval mystery** in addition to the well known Dracula and ethnographic diversity – Romanian, Hungarian, German and Roma (gipsy) traditions meet in this incredible melting pot, making up the *mosaic* of each of its sub-regions: the Land of Maramures, the Land of Oas, the Land of Szekely (Hungarian speaking community), the Land of Barsa, the Saxon villages around Sibiu.

### DAY 1 Budapest - Satu Mare

We begin our Transylvanian adventure from Budapest. Our guide picks you up from the airport and presents to you the beautiful scenery unfolding before you. We'll end our journey in Satu Mare, dinner and accommodation in an exquisite environment.

**Module:** Wine tasting in Tokaj, Hungary the same wine drunken by A. Dumas's musketeers.

### DAY 2 Satu Mare - Negresti Oas - Certeze - Sapanta - Sighet - Baia Mare

We begin our day in the spectacular scenery of Maramures by visiting the Open Air Ethnographic Museum in Negresti-Oas! We then head to Merry Cemetery in Sapinta, where we can also see the highest wood church in Romania. Our next stop is a communist prison. Accommodate in Baia Mare and enjoy a Maramuresean menu for dinner.

### DAY 3 Baia Mare - Calinesti - Barsana - Sacel - Bistrita

The road we'll follow today is sprinkled with wood churches and very similar with the Norwegian Church road. Drive to Sacel and be the guests of the famous craftsman Grigore Tulean. From here we travel to Borgo Pass and visit Count Dracula's Castle! We will then visit the puppets exposition presented by Misiuga, Baron of Dracula in Dogarilor Tower in Bistrita. Accommodate in Bistrita. Special dinner in Jonathan Harker Saloon (the main character in Dracula novel) in Golden Crown, a folk band is performing live in the restaurant.

### DAY 4 Bistrita - Cluj - Turda

Today we drive to Transylvania's capital, Cluj-Napoca, on the way we stop at Banffy Castle in Bontida. Cluj-Napoca has many things to offer: the Botany Garden, shopping session and a walk through the historic centre. Next town on our list is Turda with its impressive Salt Mines. Turzii's Gorges Reservation will offer us a nice and challenging walk. Return to Turda for accommodation and dinner with vampire menu.

#### TIPS:

**Day 2:** If you wake up early in the morning you have the chance to visit the Flea Market in Satu Mare

**Day 3:** Night life opportunity in Bistrita: casino, clubs

**Day 5:** In Sighisoara you can enjoy a special lunch in Casa Vlad Dracul Restaurant, the place where Vlad Dracul, the father of the one who bares the stigma of the bloody count Dracula, was born.

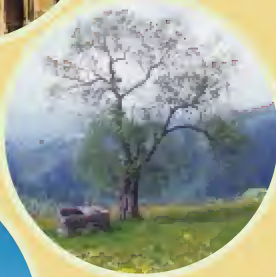
In Biertan you can shop in one of the finest selection of handicraft, belonging to madam Monica Cosma.

**Day 7:** Try a Hungarian menu in Gobe, a traditional Hungarian Country inn in Oradea!

Relax in the outdoor swimming pool with thermal water of your accommodation in Oradea.

#### Accommodation:

4 nights in 3\*, 2 nights in 4\* hotels and 1 night country-inn or best available.



### DAY 5 Turda - Medias - Biertan - Sighisoara - Brasov

First stop today is in Medias, with its beautiful medieval centre and its unique artist, a spider web painter. Our next stop is Biertan, with its fortified church. From Biertan we drive to Sighisoara, the only inhabited medieval citadel in Europe. Depart to Brasov, an important and impressive Saxon centre, where we have dinner with wine tasting and an excellent folk show in Carpathian Stag restaurant.

**Module:** Attend a witch trial in Sighisoara set on the street like in the old days.

### DAY 6 Brasov - Sibiu - Sibiel

Our day begins with a visit of Brasov's medieval centre. From Brasov we drive to Bran Castle, the residence of Count Dracula! Sibiu will be our next stop, where we'll visit the open air Village Museum, the Brukental Museum and cross over the Bridge of Liars if you wish (don't utter any lies - it might collapse). We'll drive to Sibiel to visit the Icons on the Glass Museum. Carriage ride to your accommodation in country - inns.

### DAY 7 Sibiel - Alba Iulia - Abrud - Campeni - Oradea

Our first tourist attraction today is the Alba Iulia fortress. From here we go to Poarta lui Lonele Cave for a traditional picnic lunch served right at the entrance of the cave. Our next stop is the Bears Cave, which got its name from the skeletons of some very old species of bear that were found here. From here we go to visit the Open Air Museum in Chiscau with its old cars and domestic objects. Drive to Oradea for accommodation.

### DAY 8 Oradea - Budapest

Say good-bye to Romania, depart for Budapest. Transfer to the airport.

**Includes:** transfer from/to the airport in Budapest. Accommodation, 7 breakfasts, 6 dinners (4 special dinners: dinner in Golden Crown Hotel, dinner with vampire menu in Hunter Prince in Turda, dinner with folk show and wine tasting in Carpathian Stag in Brasov and traditional Transylvanian dinner in Mioritica country-inn in Sibiel) and one traditional picnic-lunch at "Poarta lui Lonele" Cave, English speaking guide, entry fees

**Transportation:** we meet the tourists at the airport with a **luxury coach** and they'll enjoy the scenery unfolding before them, the entire road will be an adventure. We provide refreshments, there are toilets on the coach for their convenience and the driver will stop when requested to do so. Attention: for a luxury coach a minimum of 15 tourists is required, (the group limits are 15 to 48 persons). For smaller groups the transportation is assured by minibus or car - air conditioned, depending on the number of travellers.

**Entrees to:** Open Air Museum in Negresti Oas, Merry Cemetery in Sapinta, Sapinta Monastery, The Prison of Communist Victims in Sighet, Birsana Monastery, Craftsman Workshop, Dracula's Coffin, Dogarilor Tower in Bistrita, Banffy Castle in Bontida, Botany Garden, Salt Mines in Turda, Turzii's Gorges Reservation, Spider Web Painter in Medias, Fortified Church in Biertan, Clock Tower, Medieval Weapon Collection and Torture Room in Sighisoara, Bran Castle, Village Museum and Brukental Museum in Sibiu, Icon on Glass Museum in Sibiel, Bears Cave in Pietroasa.



## Best of Romania - code Hu5.2RoSi

Discover an enchanting country! Admire the traditional popular clothing as well as the popular craftsmanship kept for thousands of years. See the treasure of the monasteries in Bucovina, taste the flavour of the Romanian wine and try to discover the hidden mystery of the bloody Count Dracula. **Live ...Romanian way!**



### Day 1 Budapest - Satu Mare

The beginning of your Romanian adventure! Our English speaking guide picks you up from the Budapest Airport and leads you to Romania, crossing the vast Hungarian Plain, also called "Puszta" (wilderness). Accommodate in the lovely and full of life town Satu-Mare. **Module:** wine tasting in Tokaj, Hungary, the same wine drunken by A. Dumas's musketeers!

### Day 2 Satu Mare - Negresti Oas - Sapinta - Sighet - Ieud - Sacel - Bistrita

We begin our day by visiting an Open Air Museum in Negresti-Oas. We'll then head to Sapanta to visit the Merry Cemetery and the highest church in Romania. Our next stop is a communist prison and the Monument of Imprisoned Thoughts. The road to Sacel is sprinkled with wood churches; the route is very similar to the famous Norwegian road of churches. Famous craftsman Grigore Tulean will be our next host and after we visit his workshop we'll head to Bistrita while the sun is setting, to visit Dogarilor Tower with an exposition of more than 700 puppets presented by Misiuga, Baron of Dracula. Accommodate and enjoy a special dinner in Golden Crown Hotel in Bistrita, the place where the main character in "Dracula" novel used to dine.

### Day 3 Bistrita - Moldovita - Sucevita - Gura Humorului

From Bistrita we drive to Borgo Pass to visit Dracula's Castle and his coffin and then head to the famous monasteries in Bucovina, Sucevita and Moldovita; here Sister Tatiana will introduce us in the mysticism of the Orthodox religion and we'll enjoy a monastic lunch. Our next stop is the Black Pottery Centre in Marginea, a great place for shopping. Drive to Gura Humorului for accommodation.

### Day 4 Gura Humorului - Voronet - Suceava - Agapia - Piatra Neamt

Explore in the morning the Sistine Chapel of the East - the famous Voronet Monastery. We'll then drive to Suceava to visit the old Citadel and mingle in the well-known Russian bazaar market. Depart to Piatra Neamt for accommodation. On the way we visit Agapia, one of the largest monasteries in Europe. Discover the beauty of the Moldavian folklore and the tasteful dishes of this area in a special dinner in "Terasa Gospodinelor" restaurant.

#### TIPS:

**Day 2:** If you wake up early in the morning you could mingle in the Flea Market in Satu Mare and if you're not too tired in the evening Bistrita has excellent night life opportunity!

Try lunch in Casa Iurca restaurant in Sighetul Marmatiei to taste the Maramuresean cuisine!

**Day 3:** Try the Bucovinean specialities in Casa cu Pridvor restaurant in Gura Humorului

**Day 4:** Don't deny yourself something as delicious as the soup in bread while you're in Suceava

**Day 5:** When in Baile Tusnad you could have lunch in an incredible romantic restaurant located on the middle of Ciucas Lake.

**Day 6:** Take the pulse of Bucharest's night life: casino, nightclub, disco or romantic bars and restaurants.

Dinner in Hanul lui Manuc restaurant in Bucharest where you can enjoy a Romanian traditional menu!

**Day 7:** Have lunch in Posada restaurant in Curtea de Arges, taste the Valahian specialities!

**Day 8:** In Biertan try a medieval menu for lunch at Unglerus restaurant!

Visit Madame Monica Cosmas's shop, it offers one of the finest selection of handicraft in Romania.

**Day 9:** Evening in Oradea - relax in the outdoor swimming pool with thermal water of your hotel.

#### Accommodations:

five nights in 3\* hotels, three nights in 4\* hotels, one night in country-inn.



### Day 5 Piatra Neamt - Bicazului Gorges - Tusnad - Brasov

We continue our trip with the complicated Bicazului Gorges, the famous Red Lake also called Killer Lake and Saint Ana Lake. Drive to Brasov for accommodation. Enjoy a dinner with wine tasting and Transylvanian folk show in Carpathian Stag Restaurant.

### Day 6 Brasov - Bran - Sinaia - Bucharest

The mysterious Bran Castle will reveal to us in the morning. On the way to Bucharest we'll see another royal palace, Peles Castle, the most beautiful in Europe. Special lunch in Palace Restaurant, the place where the passengers of the famous Orient Express used to dine. A great shopping session in a truly European capital - Bucharest!

### Day 7 Bucharest - Curtea de Arges - Sibiu - Sibiel

Today we'll have a Bucharest city tour, visit "Peoples House", the second large building in the world, after Pentagon. We'll then drive to Curtea de Arges. Here we'll visit Princely Church and Curtea de Arges Monastery with its love legend. Carriages ride to Sibiel village for accommodation in country-inns, the best place to enjoy a dinner with Saxon menu.

### Day 8 Sibiel - Sibiu - Biertan - Sighisoara - Tirgu Mures - Turda

From Sibiel we drive to Sibiu to visit the Brukental Museum and the Village Museum. Then head to Biertan to see the Saxon Fortified Church. Our next host is Sighisoara Citadel. We'll visit the Clock Tower, the Medieval Weapon Collection and the Torture Room. Drive to Turda for accommodation and enjoy for dinner a special vampire menu!

**Module:** Attend the witch trial in Sighisoara, set on the street like in the old days.

### Day 9 Turda - Arieseni - Oradea

Turda will offer us its original and impressive Salt Mines. We'll then drive up the beautiful Aries valley to Motzilor Land and have a traditional Motzesc picnic lunch at the entrance of Poarta lui Ionele Cave. Drive to Oradea for accommodation.

### Day 10 Oradea - Budapest

Say good-bye to Romania, departure for Budapest!

**Includes:** transfer to / from the Budapest airport, 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches (special lunch in Palace Restaurant, picnic lunch at Poarta lui Ionele Cave, monastic lunch at Moldovita Monastery) and 6 dinners (3 special dinners: candle light dinner at Golden Crown in Bistrita, dinner with wine tasting and folk show in Carpathian Stag Brasov and vampire menu at Hunter Prince in Turda), English speaking guide.

**Transportation:** we meet the tourists at the airport with a **luxury coach** and they'll enjoy the scenery unfolding before them, the entire road will be an adventure. We provide refreshments, there are toilets on the coach for their convenience and the driver will stop when requested to do so. Attention: for a luxury coach a minimum of 15 tourists is required, (the group limits are 15 to 48 persons). For smaller groups the transportation is assured by minibus or car - air conditioned, depending on the number of travellers.

**Entrees to:** Open Air Museum in Negresti Oas, Merry Cemetery in Sapinta, Sapinta Monastery, The Prison of the Communist Victims in Sighet, Craftsman workshop in Sacel, Dogarilor Tower in Bistrita, Dracula's Coffin in Borgo Pass, Moldovita Monastery, Voronet Monastery, Sucevita Monastery, Suceava Citadel, Agapia Monastery, Bran Castle, Peles castle, Parliament House in Bucuresti, Curtea de Arges Monastery, Princely Church in Curtea de Arges, Brukental Museum in Sibiu, Village Museum in Sibiu, Fortified Church in Biertan, Clock Tower, the Medieval Weapon Collection and the Torture Room in Sighisoara, The Salt Mine in Turda.